Agriculture Profile

Chilliwack District

Province of British Columbia

Ministry of Agriculture and Food

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AGRICULTURE PROFILE

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BRITISH COLUMBIA AGRICULTURAL REPORTING REGIONS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This series of agricultural profiles was produced by the Policy Development and Economics Division, British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

The report is descriptive, and includes statistical information from a variety of sources. It is designed primarily as an information base for use by Ministry of Agriculture and Food staff in district goal identification and program planning.

The authors acknowledge with gratitude the assistance and co-operation received from individuals and organizations both public and private during the preparation of this report.

This report is one of a series covering the eighteen District Agriculturists' Office Areas of British Columbia.

Abbotsford
Chilliwack
Cloverdale
Courtenay
Cranbrook
Creston
Dawson Creek
Duncan
Fort St. John
Kamloops
Oliver
Prince George
Quesnel
Salmon Arm
Smithers
Vanderhoof
Vernon
Williams Lake

AGRICULTURAL PROFILE - CHILLIWACK DISTRICT

PREFACE

BACKGROUND

The British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food has divided the Province into eighteen agricultural districts, each served by a District Agriculturist. Profiles of these districts were first developed in 1980 under the Canada-British Columbia Agriculture and Rural Development Subsidiary Agreement (A.R.D.S.A).

The availability of new data from the 1981 Census of Agriculture resulted in a need for major revision. The present profile is an updated version reflecting the Census information. At the same time, the profiles have been expanded to include information not previously available, and many of the tables have been restructured to show a more detailed breakdown of different variables by farm sales.

CAVEAT

As the agricultural districts were designed to meet the needs of the farming community, and as their boundaries were developed to ensure efficient use of the District Agriculturist's time, the boundaries do not necessarily coincide with those of the Census Divisions or Subdivisions. However, statistical data from the Census of Agriculture is currently only available for Census Divisions and Subdivisions. An attempt was made, both in the original profiles and in these updates, to choose census divisions and subdivisions which most closely represent the agricultural districts. In this profile all references to the Chilliwack District are to the area covered by the census division 9-Fraser Cheam.

STRUCTURE

The profiles have been designed to provide a comprehensive source of statistical information on each agricultural district. They have been divided into three sections: an overview of the district, a description of the farms and farmers of the district, and a description of the farm products of the district.

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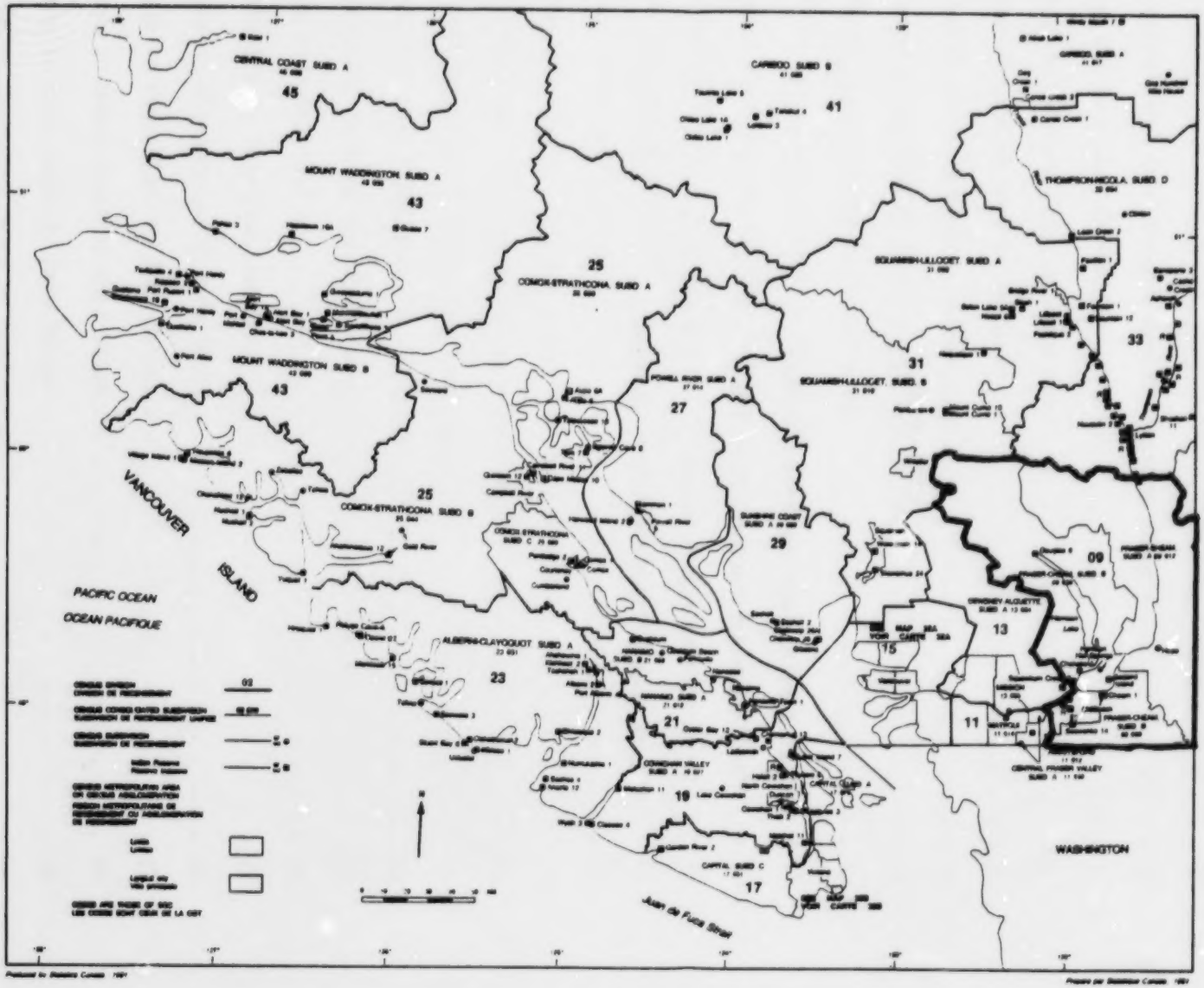
CHILLIWACK AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT



OVERVIEW: CHILLIWACK DISTRICT OFFICE AREA

The Chilliwack Agricultural District covers approximately 1 million hectares in the South Coastal Agricultural Reporting Region. The district has several advantages for agricultural production including fertile soils, a moderate coastal climate and proximity to processing facilities and a large market.

Census figures indicate a 1981 population of 56,930 an increase of 10.7 percent over 1976 levels. The urban/rural population distribution has experienced a shift over the last few years with the urban segment now accounting for 64 percent of the total population up from 48 percent in 1976. Total experienced labour force totals 26,275, with the majority employed in the manufacturing, personal services, trade and construction sectors.

Agricultural activity in the district is varied, and involves both hobby and commercial operations. In 1981, beef production was the primary activity of 32 percent of farms, dairy, poultry, fruits/vegetables and miscellaneous specialty accounted for 28, 8, 11 and 8 percent respectively. Dairying was the primary activity of 70 percent of holdings with sales greater than $50,000 in 1981. Farm cash receipts totalled $100.9 million in 1981, 11.2 percent of the provincial total. Dairy products, poultry/eggs and floriculture/nursery accounted for 49, 10 and 11 percent of receipts respectively.

During the mid-1970's there was an eastward movement of farms within the Fraser Valley, primarily due to the stronger pressures and higher land prices nearer Vancouver. However, the district's location in the eastern sector of the Lower Fraser Valley means than it will be the last area in the Valley to experience urban pressures from Vancouver. In 1983, farmland prices within the district were approximately $22,000 per hectare, lower than other areas in the Fraser Valley.

The Chilliwack District accounts for 24,225 hectares in agricultural holdings, approximately 1.1 percent of the provincial total. The Agricultural Land Commission has designated 37,560 hectares as potentially arable. The total number of farms enumerated in 1981 was 1,109. Farms are smaller than the provincial average in Chilliwack where 92 percent of holdings are less than 53 hectares. Average farm size is 22 hectares compared to 109 hectares for the province as a whole. In 1981, 82 percent of farmland was classified as improved compared with 43.4 percent for the province.

In addition to the potential for development of a variety of small-scale production, this district has potential for several major products. Proximity to Vancouver makes it suitable for the development of beef finishing operations. The upland areas are suitable for sheep production, and the Columbia Valley with its relatively light soils and abundant sunshine, could, with irrigation produce grapes. The development of water bodies in the uplands would also make these areas suitable for aquaculture.

TABLE 1

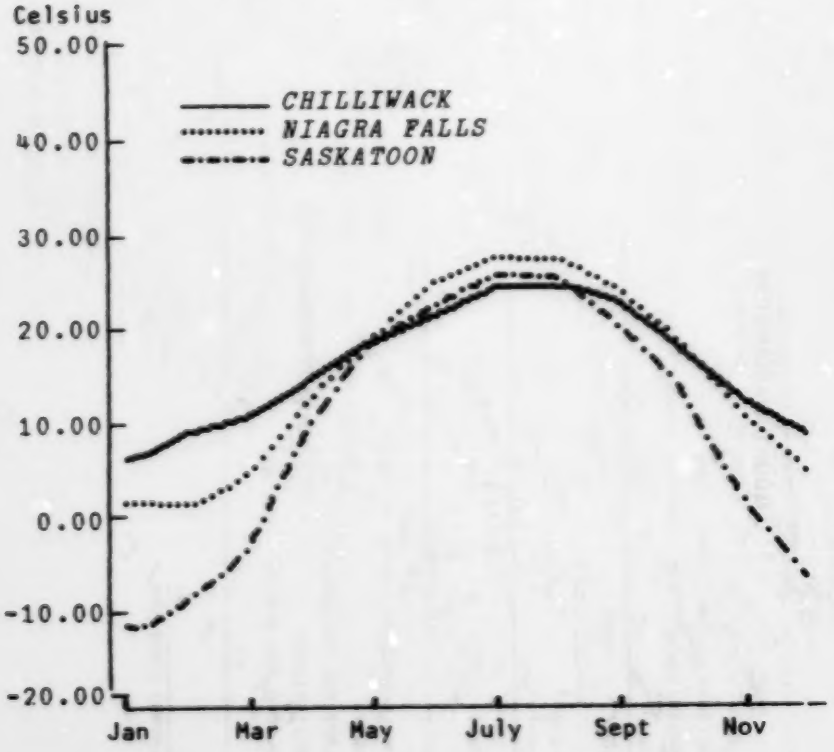
CLIMATIC DATA

CHILLIWACK/NIAGARA FALLS/SASKATOON COMPARED

	CHILLIWACK	NIAGARA FALLS	SASKATOON
Growing Degree Days	2,205.2	2,472.7	1,619.9
Frost Free Period	216	172	117
Total Precipitation	1,880.4	942.3	348.8

Source: Canadian Climate Normals 1951-1980
Temperature and Precipitation Normals 1951-1980
Environment Canada

MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM TEMPERATURES COMPARED



SOUTH COASTAL ALR AREAS
DISTRICT RANGE 2
MOUNT WADDINGTON
COAST DISTRICT
RANGE 1
POWELL RIVER
SQUAM
RUPERT
COMOX-STRATHCONA
STRATHCONA PROVINCIAL PARK
SUNSHINE COAST
DEWDNEY-ALOUETTE
NEW WESTMINSTER
FRASER-CHILLIWACK
GREATER VANCOUVER
NANAIMO
ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT
COWICHAN VALLEY
CENTRAL FRASER VALLEY
CAPITAL
PACIFIC OCEAN
VANCOUVER ISLAND
GEORGIA STRAIT
JUAN DE FUCA STRAIT
LEGEND
Agriculture Land Reserve Areas
Isolated Agriculture Land Reserve Pockets
Regional District Boundaries

TABLE 2
CHILLIWACK AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AGRICULTURAL LAND RESERVE AREAS IN HECTARES
SUMMARY TABLE: LAND CAPABILITY CLASS BY PRESENT LAND USE

Present Land Use

	1	2	3	4	1-4	5	6	7	Water	Total	%Total
Forages and Grains	90	5,160	6,820	3,480	15,550	1,700	160	70	0	17,480	47
Horticulture	10	610	850	270	1,740	120	0	0	0	1,860	5
Grassland and Pasture	0	260	730	740	1,730	1,050	190	60	0	3,030	8
Forest	0	520	1,740	3,400	5,660	5,570	990	970	0	13,190	35
Non-Productive Lands	10	280	390	340	1,020	290	80	80	530	2,000	5
Total	110	6,830	10,530	8,230	25,700	8,730	1,420	1,180	530	37,560	
% Total	0	18	28	22	68	24	4	3	1		

Source: B.C. Land Inventory Report, Vol. 1, 2
Talisman Project Inc., 1980.

SOUTH COASTAL LAND CAPABILITY

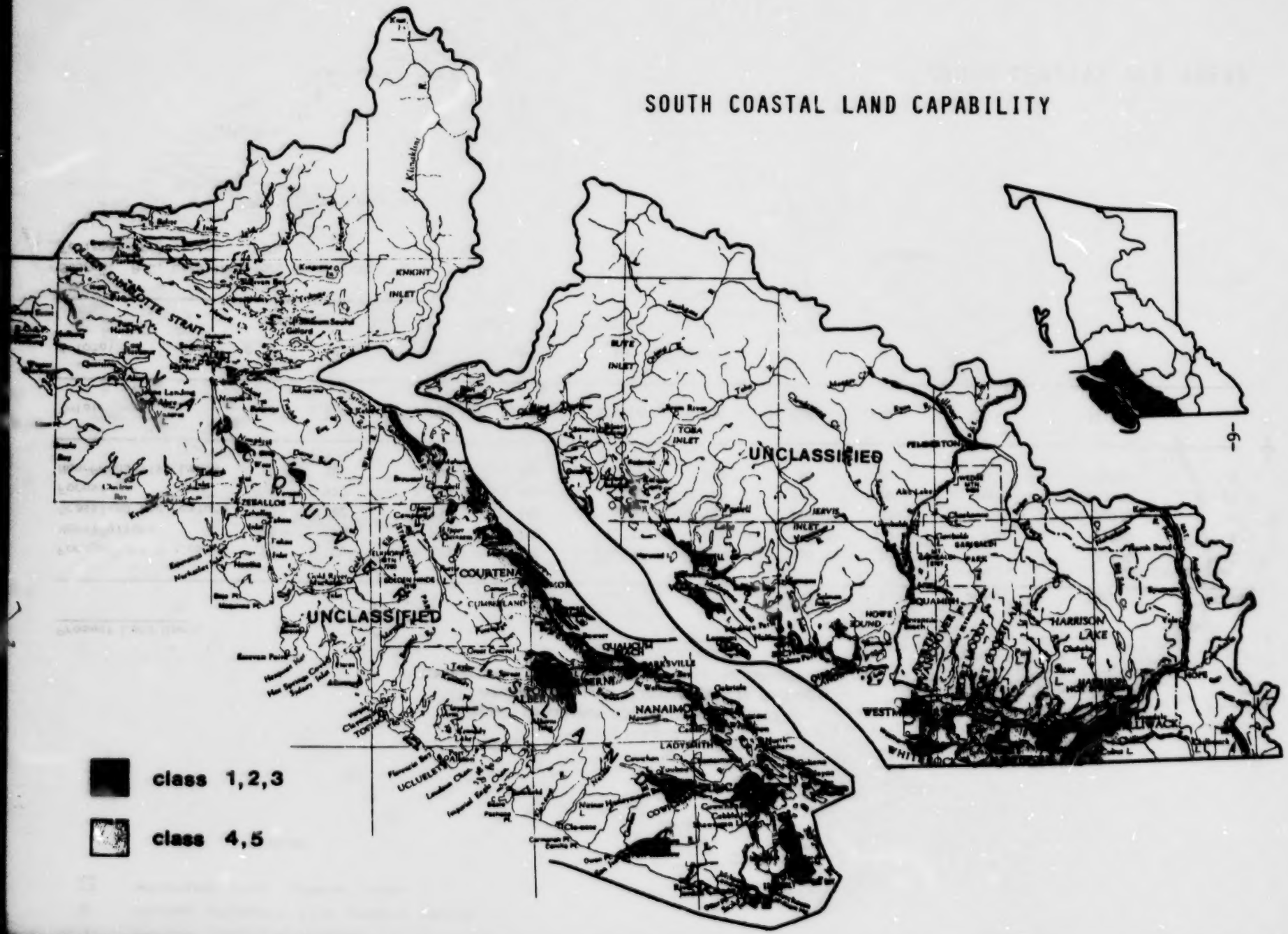


TABLE 3

SOUTH COASTAL AGRICULTURAL REPORTING REGION

AGRICULTURE LAND CAPABILITY

Class	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Water Surface	Other*	Total
Hectares:										
Unimproved	6,073	61,583	84,984	117,681	257,206	72,854	818,677	1,275,901	7,601,844	10,296,804
Improved**	16,239	88,366	103,724	158,330	160,943	72,811	818,645	1,275,901	7,601,844	10,296,802
Percent:										
Unimproved	0.06	0.60	0.83	1.14	2.50	0.71	7.95	12.39	73.83	100.0
Improved**	0.16	0.86	1.01	1.54	1.56	0.71	7.95	12.39	73.83	100.0

*Other includes unclassified urban areas, national parks and unmapped portions of the district.
**Rating if land unit were irrigated and/or drained.

Source: Agriculture Land Capacity in British Columbia, ARDA Project #89077, 1976.

TABLE 4
LOWER MAINLAND
AGRICULTURE AND GRAZING LEASE DATA IN HECTARES

Lease Type: Grazing

Year	No. of Leases	Area
1983	0	-
1982	3	17.37
1981	0	-
1980	0	-
1980-1983	3	17.37
TOTAL	8	187.3

Lease Type: Extensive Agriculture

1983	0	-
1982	0	-
1981	0	-
1980	1	16.19
1980-1983	1	16.19
TOTAL	7	246.9

Lease Type: Intensive Agriculture

1983	3	16.48
1982	2	17.9
1981	2	17.43
1980	2	3.5
1980-1983	9	55.29
TOTAL	14	158.46

Total lease area in Vancouver Region: 1980-1983: 88.85
Total lease area in Vancouver Region: 592.64

Source: B.C. Crown Land: Range and Cultivated Land Inventory, B.C.M.A. 1984

TABLE 5

USE OF LAND BY FARM SALES CLASS CHILLIWACK, 1981-IN HECTARES

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Number of Farms	184	115	148	117	155	390	1,109
Total Area of Farms	1,281	753	2,324	1,537	2,856	15,467	24,219
Total Improved Land Area	894	497	1,330	1,100	2,189	13,867	19,876
Total Area Under Crop	444	202	597	519	1,462	10,794	14,019
Farms Reporting	112	78	92	80	119	332	813
Area of Improved Pasture	345	218	378	415	563	2,158	4,076
Farms Reporting	88	67	90	77	79	192	593
Area in Summer Fallow	1.6	3.2	3.2	87	11	377	483
Farms Reporting	4	4	6	4	10	11	39
Other Improved Land Area	103	73	351	79	153	538	1,297
Farms Reporting	110	84	109	81	101	256	741
Total Unimproved Land Area	389	259	994	438	668	1,601	4,348
Woodland Area	184	103	384	155	196	657	1,679
Farms Reporting	29	20	29	16	20	22	136
Other Unimproved Land Area	205	155	610	282	472	944	2,669
Farms Reporting	50	27	33	32	38	57	237

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture
December 1983

TABLE 6

CHILLIWACK AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT:

NUMBER OF FARMS BY FARM SALES CLASS

SALES	$-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10,000+
1971	556	121	64	507
1976	482	98	26	467
1981	299	148	117	545

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 7

CHILLIWACK AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

FARMS CLASSIFIED BY PRODUCT TYPE AND SALES -1981 CENSUS

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Dairy	4	-	3	5	26	272	310
Cattle	77	58	95	62	50	16	358
Hogs	1	5	4	-	16	30	56
Poultry	22	10	5	4	6	35	82
Wheat	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Small Grains	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
Other Field Crops	19	13	5	9	2	4	52
Fruits and Vegetables	34	10	11	20	33	12	120
Miscellaneous Specialty	14	8	16	10	15	20	83
Livestock Combination	5	5	3	3	2	-	18
Other Combinations	8	6	5	3	5	-	27
TOTAL	184	115	148	117	155	390	1,109

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 8

CHILLIWACK AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

FARMS CLASSIFIED BY SIZE AND SALES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
1-2 Acres	23	4	5	4	4	8	48
3-9 Acres	94	58	55	33	30	32	302
10-69 Acres	58	46	70	66	99	178	517
70-129 Acres	7	5	8	10	13	110	153
130-179 Acres	-	2	3	3	4	25	37
180-239 Acres	1	-	1	-	2	19	23
240-399 Acres	-	-	3	-	1	8	12
400-559 Acres	-	-	1	1	-	2	4
560-759 Acres	1	-	2	-	-	2	5
760-1119 Acres	-	-	-	-	2	4	6
1600 Acres and Over	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
TOTAL	184	115	148	117	155	390	1,109

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

CHILLIWACK AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE BASE

Farm Taxfiler's Income

The district has a relatively high proportion of high income operations. In 1981, 49 percent of farms had sales greater than $10,000 compared to 40 percent for B.C. as a whole. Average gross farm income reported was $70,000 in 1981 compared to $39,959 provincially. Almost all taxfilers in the Chilliwack District reported some off farm income, with 43 percent reporting wages and salaries.

Agricultural Employment

Over 79 percent of reported days off farm work included non agricultural labour, approximately 74 percent of off farm work was reported from holdings with sales less than $10,000. Farm operators hired an average 36 weeks of farm labour, compared with 24 weeks for the province as a whole. In 1981, farms with sales greater than $50,000 provided 88 percent of agricultural employment.

Agricultural Land Development Act

The 1981 Census reported 12 fewer agricultural holdings in the district than in 1976. Land clearing under A.L.D.A. has totalled only 102 hectares over the last few years. A much greater proportion of funds has gone to irrigation development and drainage, combined these accounted for 60 percent of expenditures from 1976-79. Operators report using 8,280 tonnes of fertilizer on 14,168 hectares of agricultural land in 1981.

Farm Capital

The total nominal value of farm capital increased from $253 million in 1976 to $625 million in 1981. The per farm average rose from $225,000 to $564,000 over the same period. The proportion of investment in land and buildings, machinery and livestock has remained relatively constant since 1976. In 1981, total farm capital per hectare was $25,050, seven times the provincial average.

Age of Operators

The 1981 Census reported large increases in the 25-34 and 55-59 age groups with a major decrease in the 45-54 group. The Census also recorded 12 less operators in 1981 than in 1976, Chilliwack now accounts for 5.5 percent of the provincial farmer population.

TABLE 9

CHILLIWACK AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

FARMS CLASSIFIED BY CAPITAL VALUE AND SALES-1981 CENSUS

Capital Value	Sales $250-2499	$2500-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Less Than $10,000	-	1	-	-	1
$10,000-24,999	7	1	2	-	10
$25,000-49,999	3	7	2	1	13
$50,000-99,999	25	13	4	-	42
$100,000-199,999	126	71	19	8	224
$200,000-499,999	129	144	84	91	448
$500,000 AND OVER	9	28	44	290	371
TOTAL	299	265	155	390	1,109

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 10

TOTAL FARM CAPITAL BY FARM SALES, 1981: CHILLIWACK DISTRICT

	$250-2499	$2500-9999	$10000-49999	$50000+	TOTAL
NUMBER OF FARMS	299	265	155	390	1,109
TOTAL CAPITAL VALUE	63,304,574	76,584,427	73,420,962	411,917,815	625,227,778
VALUE OF LAND & BUILDINGS	58,544,554	70,206,300	65,089,821	337,922,965	531,763,640
VALUE OF MACHINERY	3,190,252	3,920,270	4,160,874	32,005,362	43,276,758
VALUE OF LIVESTOCK-POULTRY	1,569,768	2,457,857	4,170,267	41,989,488	50,187,380
AVERAGE CAPITAL VALUE	211,721	288,998	473,684	1,056,200	
RATIO OF CAPITAL VALUE TO MIDDLE VALUE OF FARM SALES CLASS	154	46	16	14	

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE II

1983 SALES OF FARMS-SOUTH COASTAL REGION

Area Name	No. Pcls.	Hectares	Sale Price $000s	Value of Improvements	Residual Value	Actual Value	Assessment Sales Ratio	Mkt Value $/Hectare
Saanich	3	53	1,019	$140,500	$878,500	$164,294	0.187	16,517
Capital	1	1.7	115	10,250	104,750	4,536	0.043	64,159
Cowichan Valley	13	96	2,123	514,150	1,608,850	248,800	0.155	16,754
Nanaimo	3	21	379	12,100	366,900	94,400	0.257	17,362
Port Alberni	3	142	676	262,050	413,905	267,127	0.645	2,906
Courtenay	4	17	401	69,350	331,650	55,475	0.167	19,297
Sunshine Coast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Shore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vancouver	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Burnaby-New West	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Richmond-Delta	17	210	9,107	923,100	8,183,873	902,688	0.110	39,019
Coquitlam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dewdney-Alouette	25	181	3,747	860,350	2,886,626	969,974	0.336	15,914
Surrey-White Rock	12	74	2,897	462,300	2,434,408	701,085	0.288	32,895
Lang/Mats/Abbots.	85	696	23,302	2,793,000	20,509,091	4,331,537	0.210	29,458
Chilliwack	29	131	4,018	1,199,150	2,818,576	671,898	0.238	21,550

Source: B.C. Assessment Authority.

TABLE 12

AVERAGE AGE OF FARMERS: CHILLIWACK DISTRICT

	1976	1981	CHANGE
Under 25	20	26	+6
25 - 34	147	189	+42
35 - 44	272	270	-2
45 - 54	353	295	-58
55 - 59	120	152	+32
60- 64	98	85	-13
65 - 69	54	54	-
70 & Over	57	38	-19
TOTAL	1,121	1,109	-12
TOTAL PERCENT OF B.C.	5.8	5.5	

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 13
CHILLIWACK DISTRICT
FARM TAXFILER'S INCOME 1980.

# of Farm Taxfilers	Average Gross Farm Income $'000s	Total Gross Farm Income $'000s	# Reporting Farm Net Income	Average Net Farm Income $'000s	Total Net Farm Income $'000s	# Reporting Wages & Salaries	Average Wage & Salary $'000s	# Reporting Off Farm Income	Average Off Farm Income $'000s	Total Off Farm Income $'000s	Average Income All Sources $'000s	Total Income All Sources $'000s
1,775	70.9	124,461.1	1,762	3.6	6,328.5	764	7.8	1,697	14.0	24,561.2	17.4	30,889.8

Source: Revenue Canada.

TABLE 14

OFF-FARM WORK BY FARM OPERATORS BY TYPE OF WORK & FARM SALES, 1981: CHILLIWACK

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
NUMBER OF FARMS	184	115	148	117	155	390	1,109
DAYS OF OFF-FARM WORK	21,512	18,488	19,129	15,610	14,250	11,852	100,841
FARMS REPORTING	97	81	94	72	84	67	495
AGRICULTURAL OFF-FARM WORK	1,514	1,812	2,668	2,805	3,150	8,223	20,172
FARMS REPORTING	12	11	16	18	23	41	121
NON-AGRICULTURAL OFF-FARM WORK	19,998	16,676	16,461	12,805	11,100	3,629	80,669
FARMS REPORTING	91	73	81	60	69	29	403

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 15
CHILLIWACK AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
OFF FARM WORK BY FARM OPERATORS BY NUMBER OF DAYS AND FARM SALES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,000	$50,000+	TOTAL
1-6 Days	-	1	3	1	3	-	8
7-12	1	-	2	1	-	7	11
13-24	3	-	2	1	6	6	18
25-48	3	2	2	1	8	10	26
49-72	2	2	5	3	4	4	20
73-96	2	-	2	5	2	1	12
97-126	3	3	4	-	5	5	20
127-156	4	4	2	2	7	3	22
157-228	20	28	26	20	22	4	120
229-365	59	41	46	38	27	27	238
Total	97	81	94	72	84	67	495

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 16

HIRED AGRICULTURAL LABOUR BY FARM SALES, 1981: CHILLIWACK

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
NUMBER OF FARMS	184	115	148	117	155	390	1,109
TOTAL WEEKS OF HIRED LABOUR	253	313	668	685	2,994	35,101	40,014
FARMS REPORTING	33	18	36	50	84	317	538
WEEKS OF YEAR-ROUND LABOUR	41	206	270	156	624	17,625	18,922
FARMS REPORTING	3	4	6	16	23	183	235
WEEKS OF SEASONAL LABOUR	212	107	398	529	2,370	17,476	21,092
FARMS REPORTING	30	15	32	35	69	205	386

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 17

AGRICULTURE LAND DEVELOPMENT ACT WORK DONE, 1976 - 1979: CHILLIWACK DISTRICT OFFICE AREA

	CLEARED			BROKEN			IRRIGATION	DRAINAGE	OTHER	TOTAL
Fiscal Year	Hectares	Cost/ Hectare $	Cost $'000	Hecatares	Cost/ Hectare $	Cost $'000	Cost $'000	Cost $'000	Cost $'000	$'000
1976	23	596	14	-	-	-	20	37	7	78
1977	25	980	25	-	-	-	2	17	32	76
1978	23	751	17	-	-	-	20	42	10	89
1979	31	1,137	35	7	291	2	35	65	31	168

SOURCE: British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food, A.L.D.A. Branch Records

TABLE 18

SPRAYING, DUSTING AND IRRIGATION, 1981: CHILLIWACK

Spraying and Dusting (any)	367
Weed Control (Hec.)	5,814
Farms Reporting	328
For Insect Control (Hec.)	1,384
Farms Reporting	123
Irrigation - Total Area (Hec.)	2,025
Farms Reporting	139
Sprinkler System - Total Area (Hec.)	1,659
Farms Reporting	119

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 19

FERTILIZER USE, 1981: CHILLIWACK

Total Area (hectares)	14,168
Tonnes	8,280
No. Reports of Any Use	626
Total Cropland (Hec.)	8,139
Tonnes	5,192
Reporting	403
Total Tame Hay (Hec.)	3,359
Tonnes	1,749
Reporting	274
Total Improved Pasture (Hec.)	2,670
Tonnes	1,339
Reporting	275

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

CHILLIWACK AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Horticulture

Horticulture is the most remunerative sector in Mainland agriculture. District field vegetable receipts were valued at $7.5 million in 1981, approximately 25 percent of the provincial total. Small fruit accounted for $1.6 million, 4 percent of the B.C. crop. In 1981, approximately 6 percent of provincial vegetable/small fruit acreage was in the Chilliwack District. Agricultural holdings with sales less than $10,000 account for 63 percent of vegetable/small fruit area. Tree fruit accounted for $142,000 in 1981 receipts, plum and prune cultivation represents more than 50 percent of tree fruit area in the district.

Field Crops

Crop sales in 1981 were valued at $126,000 made up primarily of wheat, oats and barley. Only 5 percent of holdings reported field crops as their primary activity in the district. Demand exceeds local production of high protein feed, as a result some operators are becoming self-sufficient in hay. However, the trend among dairy farmers towards smaller areas per cow is resulting in heavier reliance on corn silage as well as higher hay requirements. Cereals are grown almost exclusively as companion or nurse crops with new forage seedlings, and are taken off as green feed or silage.

Specialty Crops

Floriculture/nursery receipts totalled $10.6 million in 1981, 20.8 percent B.C. nursery output. Hothouse vegetables were valued at $1.5 million, 5 percent of provincial hothouse production. Over 7 percent of agricultural holdings reported miscellaneous specialty as their primary activity, the majority of which have sales less than $10,000.

Livestock and Related Products

Sales of livestock and products for 1981 were valued at $69.4 million or 69 percent of total farm cash receipts. Dairy products accounted for more than $49 million of this total, 23 percent of provincial dairy output. Total cattle herd size increased by 24 percent to 45,326 head over the period 1976-81. In 1981, cattle production was the primary activity of 32 percent of operators, more than 81 percent of these holdings had sales less than $10,000.

Hog production has experienced significant expansion over the last few years, the hog population has increased by 39,000 over the period 1976-81. Local abattoirs handle only a small proportion of hog production, with most hogs marketed going to abattoirs in the western end of the Fraser Valley. Sheep production occurs mostly on a hobby basis, with a limited number of commercial wool and lamb producers.

The 1981 census recorded 710,000 chickens, up 38 percent from 1976 levels. Fifty percent of poultry operations have sales less than $10,000.

TABLE 20

ESTIMATE OF FARM CASH RECEIPTS, 1981

CHILLIWACK AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

COMMODITY	FARM CASH RECEIPTS $'000	PERCENTAGE	PERCENTAGE OF B.C. OUTPUT
Wheat	46.75	0.05	0.53
Oats	11.04	0.01	0.38
Barley	55.17	0.05	0.67
CWB Payments	0.00	0.00	0.00
Canola	12.73	0.01	0.62
Potatoes	283.54	0.28	1.55
Small Fruits	1,578.41	1.56	4.14
Field Vegetables	7,239.18	7.17	24.82
Floriculture/Nursery	10,622.00	10.52	20.75
Forest Prod.	19.25	0.02	0.82
Cattle & Calves	1,519.23	1.51	1.24
Income Ins.	220.96	0.22	
Hogs	8,961.99	8.88	17.26
Income Ins.	16.22	0.02	
Sheep	32.08	0.03	1.22
Income Ins.	1.89	0.00	
Poultry & Eggs	9,597.67	9.51	7.12
Income Ins.	3.56	0.00	
Dairy Products	49,331.60	48.88	22.73
C.D.C. Subsidy	1,969.61	1.95	
Honey	47.75	0.05	0.94
Tree Fruit	141.51	0.14	0.26
Income Ins.	60.47	0.06	
Hothouse	1,529.16	1.52	5.28
Income Ins.	53.67	0.05	
Other	7,569.30	7.50	11.07
TOTAL	100,925.00		

SOURCE: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, 1983.

TABLE 21

AREA IN FIELD CROPS BY FARM SALES, 1981: CHILLIWACK-IN HECTARES

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Number of Farms	184	115	148	117	155	390	1,109
Flaxseed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canola	-	-	36	-	-	121	157
Farms Reporting	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
Tame Hay - Total	327	174	371	296	684	4,508	6,360
Farms Reporting	68	60	71	48	77	256	580
Alfalfa and Mixtures	3.2	12	29	9.7	16	240	311
Farms Reporting	5	6	5	2	4	19	41
Other Tame Hay	323	162	342	287	668	4,267	6,049
Farms Reporting	64	56	68	46	76	248	558
Oats for Fodder	6.1	0.41	35	20	11	134	206
Farms Reporting	5	1	3	6	5	31	51
Other Fodder Crops	12	2.8	11	16	13	367	422
Farms Reporting	5	1	3	3	2	28	42

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 22
CHILLIWACK AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AREA OF VEGETABLES ON FARMS, IN HECTARES- 1981 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

	$250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	184	115	148	117	155	390	1,109
Vegetables	16	4.6	6.2	31	410	1,485	1,952
Farms Reporting	15	5	6	10	13	22	71
Asparagus	0.41	-	-	0.08	-	-	0.49
Farms Reporting	2	-	-	1	-	-	3
Beans	-	0.04	0.24	0.2	40	294	335
Farms Reporting	-	1	2	1	5	5	14
Beets	0.12	0.04	0.24	0.2	0.65	20	22
Farms Reporting	2	1	2	1	3	1	10
Broccoli	2.0	0.04	0.08	0.41	2.4	60	65
Farms Reporting	1	1	1	1	1	3	8
Cabbage	-	0.04	0.41	0.61	1.2	0.41	2.6
Farms Reporting	-	1	2	2	4	1	10
Carrots	0.24	0.04	0.24	0.41	0.45	57	58
Farms Reporting	2	1	2	1	2	2	10
Cauliflower	2.0	0.12	0.08	0.41	5.7	47	56
Farms Reporting	1	2	1	1	3	3	11
Cucumbers	0.12	-	0.2	0.2	1.5	1.3	3.4
Farms Reporting	1	-	1	1	3	3	9
Green Peas	0.04	0.04	0.12	7.1	207	525	739
Farms Reporting	1	1	1	1	3	15	22
Lettuce	0.04	-	0.32	-	0.08	-	0.45
Farms Reporting	1	-	2	-	2	-	5
Onions (Dry)	0.32	-	-	-	0.04	-	0.36
Farms Reporting	2	-	-	-	1	-	3
Rutabagas	0.04	-	-	-	0.41	-	0.45
Farms Reporting	1	-	-	-	1	-	2
Sweet Corn	10	4.2	2.7	21	146	444	628
Farms Reporting	11	4	6	8	9	11	49
Tomatoes	0.04	-	0.32	-	-	-	0.36
Farms Reporting	1	-	2	-	-	-	3
Other Vegetables	0.04	0.08	1.3	0.69	4.5	36	42
Farms Reporting	1	1	2	3	3	3	13

TABLE 23
CHILLIWACK AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AREA IN SMALL FRUITS BY FARM SALES IN HECTARES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	184	115	148	117	155	390	1,109
Small Fruits	21	4.9	9.1	24	97	76	231
Farms Reporting	29	7	14	21	34	12	117
Strawberries	0.81	0.24	0.36	4.2	11	21	38
Farms Reporting	2	2	2	3	7	5	21
Grapes	-	-	-	0.57	-	-	0.57
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Other Berries	20	4.7	8.7	20	86	55	193
Farms Reporting	29	7	13	18	30	9	106

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 24
CHILLIWACK AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AREA IN TREE FRUITS BY FARM SALES IN HECTARES-1981 CENSUS

	250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	184	115	148	117	155	390	1,109
Tree Fruits	1.8	20	2.9	4.2	0.41	1.3	30
Farms Reporting	4	9	4	5	1	1	24
Apple	0.53	0.93	0.89	3.3	0.2	0.2	6
Farms Reporting	3	7	4	5	1	1	21
No. of Apple Trees	63	97	184	820	72	3,000	4,236
Pear	0.28	0.32	0.53	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.7
Farms Reporting	3	4	4	4	1	1	17
Number of Pear Trees	11	16	36	19	36	1000	1,118
Plum and Prune	0.57	13	0.57	0.24	-	0.2	15
Farms Reporting	4	7	4	3	-	1	19
Number of Trees	93	2,051	137	23	-	1,000	3,304
Cherry (Sweet)	0.28	0.53	0.65	0.16	-	0.12	1.7
Farms Reporting	3	6	4	3	-	1	17
No. of Cherry Trees	23	46	45	8	-	3,000	3,122
Cherry (Sour)	0.04	4.3	0.08	0.12	-	0.2	4.8
Farms Reporting	1	4	2	2	-	1	10
Number of Trees	2	1,142	12	3	-	1,000	2,159
Peach	0.04	0.04	0.08	0.12	-	0.2	0.49
Farms reporting	1	1	2	2	-	1	7
No. of Peach Trees	2	2	4	2	-	3,000	3,010
Apricot	0.08	0.04	0.12	0.08	-	0.2	0.53
Farms reporting	1	1	3	1	-	1	7
No. of Apricot Trees	20	1	6	2	-	500	529

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 25
CHILLIWACK AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AREA IN SPECIALTY CROPS BY FARM SALES IN HECTARES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-2,499	$2,500-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	299	265	155	390	1,109
Nusery Products	3.0	4.9	24	226	258
Farms Reporting	7	7	11	9	34
Greenhouse Sq. Metres	154	485	152	4,632.	5,422
Farms Reporting	7	11	6	13	37

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 26
CHILLIWACK AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
LIVESTOCK NUMBERS BY FARM SALES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-2,499	$2,500-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	299	265	155	390	1,109
Cattle-Total Number	2,389	4,132	4,264	34,541	45,326
Farms Reporting	208	202	107	332	849
Cows-Total Number	391	1,223	1,315	20,055	23,184
Farms Reporting	108	133	82	308	631
Dairy Cows-Number	179	237	785	19,088	20,289
Farms Reporting	44	37	48	288	417
Beef Cows-Number	412	966	530	967	2,895
Farms Reporting	75	105	42	33	255
Heifers-Total Number	606	866	1,187	7,162	9,821
Farms Reporting	117	120	76	294	607
Steers-Number	242	434	392	282	1,350
Farms Reporting	82	95	41	46	264
Bulls-Number	34	80	139	221	474
Farms Reporting	27	68	40	142	277
Calves-Number	916	1,529	1,231	6,821	10,497
Farms Reporting	159	164	89	303	715
Pigs-Total Number	738	270	8,746	34,232	43,986
Farms Reporting	32	27	28	47	134
Sheep-Total Number	310	328	65	112	815
Farms Reporting	22	19	4	7	52
Horses-Number	207	271	161	159	798
Farms Reporting	64	60	30	61	215

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 27
CHILLIWACK AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
POULTRY NUMBERS BY FARM SALES-1981 CENSUS

	250-2,499	$2,500-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	299	265	155	390	1,109
Hens/Chickens Total No.	15,002	4,198	99,446	591,789	710,435
Farms Reporting	128	89	45	88	350
Turkeys-Number	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Farms Reporting	7	2	3	1	13
Geese-Number	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Farms Reporting	24	18	6	7	55
Ducks-Number	455	277	36	4,105	4,873
Farms Reporting	37	18	9	14	78

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

APPENDIX

TERMS USED IN THE CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Census-farm areas

The area of census-farms reported for each subdivision represents the area of land operated by farmers whose headquarters are in the subdivision.

Crown lands, usually pasture land, which were operated under a lease agreement with federal, provincial or municipal governments, are reported as part of the farming operation of the person to whom the land was leased. However, land which was used under a per head grazing permit or fee is not included.

Large areas of timber land or other non-agricultural land held by the operator, but operated apart from the farm business, are excluded.

Use of Land

All farm land is classified according to use under two major divisions: improved and unimproved land.

Improved Land

1) Crop land - Included in this item is the total area of crop land sown for harvest in the census year. Crop land includes the total area of all field crops, plus the areas of fruits, vegetables, greenhouses, mushroom houses and nursery products. Because some crops are reported in fractions of a hectare, there may be slight differences between the sum of the individual crop areas and the total crop land.

2) Improved pasture - All land which was being used for pasture or grazing and which has had some improvements made to it in recent years is included. Improvements would include cultivation, drainage, irrigation, fertilization, seeding down or spraying.

3) Summer fallow - The enumerator was instructed to include in this item land from which no crop was to be harvested during the census year, but which was to be cultivated or worked during the year for weed control and/or for moisture conservation.

4) Other improved land - This item includes the area of barnyards, home gardens, lanes and roads on farms. It also includes areas of cultivated land that were lying idle, being neither summer-fallowed nor cropped, and areas of new breaking that had not been seeded to a crop.

Unimproved Land

The area of unimproved land consists of the total areas reported for 1) woodland and 2) other unimproved land.

1) Woodland - This includes farm woodlots, land leased for cutting, sugar bush and cut-over land with young growth which has or will have value as timber, fuelwood or Christmas trees. The area of trees planted for wind-breaks was also to be included. It excludes large timber tracts which are run as a separate business from the farm. There is some evidence that changes in the area of this item between censuses may be due to differences in interpretation. This would be particularly true in areas of bushland.

2) Other unimproved land - Areas of native pasture or hay land that had not been cultivated, bush pasture, grazing or waste land, sloughs, marsh and rocky land et cetera, are all included in this item.

TERMS USED IN LAND CAPABILITY RATINGS

Class 1	land is capable of producing the very widest range of vegetables, cereal grains, forages, berry fruits and numerous specialty crops. Soil and climatic conditions are opitimum.
Class 2	land is capable of producing a wide range of regional crops as above with some differences in variety due to minor restrictions of soils and climate.
Class 3	land is capable of producing a fairly wide range of regional crops under good management practices. Soils and/or climate limitations are somewhat restrictive.
Class 4	land is capable of a restricted range of regional crops such as hardy cereal grains, hardy vegetables, and forages. Soil and climate limitations demand special management considerations.
Class 5	land is capable of production of perennial forage crops only. Soil and/or climate restrictions severely limit the land's capability.
Class 6	land is natural rangeland. Soil and/or climate limitations preclude cultivation, but the land may be important in its natural state as grazing land.
Class 7	land has no agricultural capability whatsoever.
UNIMPROVED	These figures are derived from the Canada Land Inventory dry-farm ratings. They do not reflect either present land use or the state of readiness for cultivation, but only the potential capability if used for agriculture.
IMPROVED	These figures are derived from the Canada Land Inventory irrigated ratings. They reflect the capabitity for agriculture if the land unit were irrigated and/or drained. They do not indicate whether the land unit is presently either irrigated or drained.
WATER SURFACES	This category includes all non-seasonal lakes and rivers. It also includes that part of the Strait of Georgia, between Vancouver Island and the Mainland , that falls within latitudes 49 N to 51 N.
OTHER	This category includes all regions of the province that were not mapped due to limited agricultural potential, national parks, and unmapped urban areas.

South Coastal Region

District Office:

5 - 8635 Young Road South
Chilliwack, B.C.
V2P 4P3

Telephone: 795-9471

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